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Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 16 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach the communiqué of the Fourteenth Summit Meeting of the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi, held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 26 February 2001 (see annex).

I would be delighted if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 50, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daudi N. **Mwakawago**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 16 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué of the Fourteenth Summit Meeting of the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 26 February 2001

1. At the invitation of the Chairman of the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Presidents Moi of Kenya, Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania, Kagame of Rwanda, Buyoya of Burundi and Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the Vice-Presidents of Gabon, South Africa and Uganda, H.E. Mr. Didjob Divungi Di Ndinge, Jacob Zuma and Dr. Speciaoza Kazibwe, respectively, met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 26 February 2001 to review the progress on the Burundi peace process. The Facilitator of the Burundi peace negotiations, former President Nelson Mandela, Ambassador Mamadou Bah, representing the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, and the Chairman of the Implementation Monitoring Committee, Ambassador Berhanu Dinka, representing the Secretary-General of the United Nations, also attended. H.E. Ambassador Teshome Toga represented the Federal Republic of Ethiopia. The Republic of Malawi was represented by the Hon. Rodwell Munyenyembe, Minister for Defence. The Republic of Zambia was represented by H.E. Joel Chitafu, High Commissioner of Zambia to the United Republic of Tanzania.

2. In the absence of President Yoweri Museveni, with apologies, President Mkapa chaired the meeting.

3. The Summit considered a progress report by the Facilitator on the Burundi negotiations. The Summit also considered the Facilitator's recommendations on the resolutions of the outstanding issues, namely suspension or cessation of hostilities and leadership of the transition.

4. The Summit took note of the progress made in the establishment of the Implementation Monitoring Committee and its Executive Council. In this regard, the Summit expressed its support for the work of the Committee and its Chairman, Ambassador Berhanu Dinka, and called on the signatories of the Burundi Peace Agreement to cooperate fully with them in the discharge of their duties. The Summit requested that a formal and comprehensive report be presented to them and the Facilitator by Ambassador Dinka at least once every three months.

5. The Summit welcomed the progress attained in proximity talks aimed at achieving a cessation of hostilities in Burundi. In this regard, the Summit called upon the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, who has done a commendable job of mediating these talks on behalf of the Facilitator, to intensify his efforts with the objective of getting a ceasefire agreement soon. The Summit noted with satisfaction that progress may be made in the near future.

6. On the issue of the leadership of the transition, the Summit was disappointed to hear that, six months after the signing of the Agreement, the issue had not been resolved, resulting in the delay in the implementation of the Agreement. The Summit, therefore, having heard the Facilitator and a report on his discussions and

having considered his proposals, decided to recommend to the signatories a scheme for the resolution of the issue, as follows:

(a) That having regard to the need for reassurance, stability and a smooth transition to democracy, the three-year period of transition be divided into two phases of 18 months;

(b) That the question of leadership be considered against the totality of checks and balances both within the schema of government and in terms of the composition of the leadership itself;

(c) That in the first phase, the parties agree on a Transitional President from the G.10 family and the Vice-President be chosen from the G.7 family;

(d) That in the second phase, the Transitional President be replaced by the Vice-President from the G.7 family and the Vice-President be chosen from the G.10 family;

(e) That the signatory parties be invited to fill the above posts at or during the forthcoming meeting of the Implementation Monitoring Committee. They are also invited to nominate and agree on the 26 ministerial posts in the political proportions already agreed;

(f) While expressing its sincere gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, and to the entire international community for their unflinching support for the Burundi peace process, the Summit appealed to the Security Council to provide all-round support and assistance to the efforts of the Regional Initiative and the Facilitator, in particular to expedite the dispatch of peacekeepers and protection aides to Burundi as soon as there is a suspension of hostilities. In case the United Nations is not able to raise the necessary troops and personnel sufficiently quickly, the Summit requested the Security Council to provide material, financial and logistical support to any countries that are able and willing to contribute such peacekeepers. The Summit directed foreign ministers of participating countries to personally present such a request to the Security Council as soon as possible.

7. The Summit expressed its delight at the decision of the Facilitator to visit some of the refugee camps in the United Republic of Tanzania. The Summit believes that such a visit will provide the refugees with an excellent opportunity to understand the peace process, and will allay fears on how the repatriation exercise will be carried out.

8. The Summit appealed to Burundi in general and to the signatory parties in particular to do everything possible to enable the successful implementation of the Agreement. To those who are going to lead Burundi, the appeal of the Summit was that they forget the past, avoid any acts of vengeance and implement the Agreement faithfully and in a spirit of give and take.

9. The Summit expressed its gratitude to all the donors who have provided financial and material support to the peace process. A total of more than US$ 12 million has been spent on the process. Without this generous support, the progress of the negotiations would have been seriously handicapped.

10. The Summit expressed its deep appreciation to President Benjamin Mkapa, the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania, for hosting the meeting and for the cordial reception and hospitality accorded to the various leaders and their delegations.